

Pending taking a view on the report of NCAER the allocations for 2005-06 have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year to meet emergency/urgent demands for PDS Kerosene in States/Union Territories. For the 1st quarter of 2006-07, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2005-06.

(b) and (c) While no such request has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in the recent past, requests for additional allocation for floods/drought in the State were received in this Ministry during 2005-06. Additional allocations of 1320 KL each were made to the State during August 2005 and October 2005 against these requests.

#### **Sale of IOC and ONGC holding in GAIL**

3279. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IOC and ONGC have planned to block sale of GAIL holding;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the Nation by such a move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) IOC have already sold 50% of its equity holding in GAIL, fetching them net sale proceeds of Rs. 560.98 crore. Similarly, though ONGC Board have also approved the sale of their holding in GAIL, the plan to do so at an appropriate time, depending upon their liquidity requirements and other commercial considerations.

(c) By sale of their holdings in GAIL, not only the profitability, networth and liquidity position of IOC and ONGC is expected to improve, but it would also help them fund their new projects, benefitting the nation as well.

#### **Mixing of Naptha in Petrpl**

†3280. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Naptha is mixed in petrol;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.